

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
February 11, 2013**

COA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Rae Ann Butler	Sue Ramsburg	Mary Rice		Blaine Young, Comm.
Hermine Bernstein	Pat Rosensteel	Debra Savageau		Don Linton
Ernell Graham	Carolyn True	Virginia Skelley		Sonja Sperlich
David Gray, Comm	Mia Brust	Steve Wilhide		Lori Depies
Millard Haines				Fanny Johnson
Carol Krimm, Alderman				Jerry Miller
Louise Lynch				Charles Trunk
Dan Yeeles				Steve Bruns
				Joyce Rowe
				Dr. Joseph Berman
				Kay Steiss
				Lucille Posey
				Edi Stewart

- I. **Call to Order** – RaeAnn Butler called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – RaeAnn welcomed all attendees.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the January 14, 2013 meeting were approved as written. All were in favor.
- IV. **Proposed Sale/Lease of Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center and Montevue Assisted Living (CCRC/MAL), RaeAnn Butler** – (Commissioners Shreve and Delauter sent their regrets. Commissioner Smith had planned to attend but could not due to a death in the family)

Commissioner Gray began his remarks by giving his thoughts about services to seniors in Frederick County. He then was asked to focus

the discussion to the current situation involving Citizens/Montevue. Commissioner Gray does not support the sale/lease of either facility. Time should be given to the staff and management to explore opportunities to enhance the financial bottom line

After a few minutes, Commissioner Young arrived to the meeting. Commissioner Gray offered for Commissioner Young to present his information and respond to questions.

RaeAnn commented the CCRC/MAL facilities have had a significant historical place in the community. These facilities have delivered quality care to a local senior population which cannot financially provide adequate care for themselves. There is also a concern for potential future residents who may need these services.

Commissioner Young does support exploring the option of a proposed sale/lease. The subsidy provided by the Frederick County taxpayers has been and continues to be quite significant. This County is currently one of the few in Maryland which subsidizes this type of facility. Current residents in both facilities would be protected from eviction by way of COMAR regulations.

There was some discussion between Commissioners Gray and Young. This prompted Commissioner Young to indicate that he was not staying and left the meeting. At this time, Lori Depies, County Manager, stepped up to sit at the table as another representative from the county and dialogue with those present. Commissioner Young returned only briefly to provide some handouts that were prepared.

Commissioner Gray stated that he believes the process of streamlining practices to promote a better fiscal outlook has just been initiated. CCRC could become a self-sufficient entity and provide some relief to the current subsidy funds provided by the County. Frederick County lacks small affordable assisted living facilities, which are plentiful in other Maryland counties. The waiting list for subsidized beds at MAL is extensive and seniors on the list are receiving minimal community-based services. In some cases, family caregivers are burdened with this time consuming care.

Lori Depies, County Manager, offered information regarding the request for proposals (RFP). There is a provision in the request that will give preference to any entity that is able to continue the Montevue mission with consideration to the sixty subsidized beds. The financial piece is the leading object enclosed in the RFP. The proposed quality of care and employee futures would also be considered. Historically there has been limited oversight by the County in regard to the day-to-day operations at these facilities. Recently management companies

have been brought in and they have been implementing cost cutting measures without compromising quality of care. The expectation is that this trend will continue. There has not been enough time to fully realize how much funding can be saved. Currently there is a freeze on admissions to the subsidized beds. It is a possibility that a private company which has resources in other states could move current residents in these beds to one of their other facilities. The RFP includes a request that no current resident be discharged from either facility. There has not been a decision to sell the facilities; the decision is to explore the options of sale/lease of the facilities. There will be public hearings on any recommendation that goes forward.

There were various members of the Board of Trustees present who offered comment. The Board was originally given eighteen months to increase profitability of the facilities when the new buildings opened mid-2012. There is not a clear reason why this time has been suddenly decreased. There has been considerable progress made in increasing the profitability potential.

The staff at these facilities has considerable expertise in the field of caring for others. The new facilities are beautiful and modern. There is much potential to make CCRC a profitable resource. MAL would in all probability continue to require a subsidy, but it has been a Frederick County tradition to take care of its own community. It is a possibility that a private company would take profits made out of the county. For this community to mirror other counties may not be a best course to follow. We should be proud as a community that we take care of our fellow citizens. It was suggested that a sale could initially create a considerable loss of funding to the County.

There was a time in previous years that Citizen's did make a profit and the profits were used for the facility. Given enough time, the facility can be profitable again. There was a suggestion that this issue go to referendum so that the citizens can make the decision.

Some of the personnel changes which have been put in place are significant cost saving measures. The number of holidays has been decreased from thirteen to six. New hires are not eligible for the same retirement benefits. The larger, up-to-date facilities could facilitate more beds becoming private pay which would increase revenue. All this information should be brought before the BoCC publically. The Board of Trustees has worked hard to keep these facilities in the hands of the citizens. There is so much more money spent on public schools which are used only nine months per the year. This facility is used year round.

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The stance from the BoCC regarding this potential sale/lease may be more of a business decision than a true money issue. They have the opinion that the county should not be in the business of running a nursing home. These facilities are a legacy in Frederick County. This is more of an ethical issue regarding how the community takes care of its fellow citizens. There was a suggestion during discussion that perhaps this issue should be more publicized. The public needs to be more aware of the possible repercussions which could be caused by losing these facilities. Commissioner Gray offered to investigate the possibility of an interview or roundtable discussion on Channel 19.

This Commission will continue to monitor this situation.

- V. Nominating Committee Update, Millard Haines** – The Nominating interviewed one candidate who they would recommend for inclusion to the Commission. There was not a quorum at this time of the meeting for a vote to take place. They will have an additional interview before next month's meeting and will present both candidates at that time.
- VI. Announcements, All** – Alderman Krimm forwarded via email a Senior Homeowners Taskforce Report. This report was just recently released.
- VII. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

February 26, 2013. CoA Executive Committee meeting, 1:00 at Frederick County Dept of Aging

March 11, 2013, Commission on Aging, 1:00 at Frederick Senior Center, 1440 Taney Ave, Frederick, MD,